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From "Westdeutsche Allgemeine," Essen, 18 December 1952, page 1

SPANDAU PRISONERS ALLOWED TO WRITE MORE LETTERS

Donnelly succeeded in obtaining slight alleviation of imprisonment

Last June, U.S.High Commissioner Donnelly suggested to Chuikov, head of the Soviet occupation, a mitigation of certain prison regulations for the inmates of the Spandau war criminals prison, it was stated by von Rechenberg, former press chief of the former nazi economics minister Funk, before the press in Berlin on Wednesday.

As a result of this step the prisoners are now allowed to write and receive a letter once a week instead - as before - one letter in four weeks. Furthermore, the length of the visit of near relations, allowed once every two months, has been increased from 15 to 30 minutes. Because of the grea distance of their place of residence from Berlin, these relations are actually not able to make more than approximately two visits in one year, in which case these visits may be extended to one hour. During the conversation one guard and, in principle, also the four Allied prison directors are present; lately, however, the representatives of the three Western Powers have refrained from being present.

Mr. Donnelly's proposal, that in case of death of one of the prisoners his body be released to the family, had been vetoed by the Soviets, who quoted the directive of the Nuernberg Court, that the ashes of deceased war criminals sentenced by this court are to be scattered in all directions. It may - according to Rechenberg - however be possible to arrange for the ashes to be interred in an urn at the Spandau cemetery and there be put under Allied control

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Rechenberg stated that all prisoners, except von Speer and von Schirach, are in bad health. Neurath and Raeder have reached the end of their life.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TRANSMITTAL SLIP

TO : Mr Hagan

FOR : (agency or individual)

FROM: Mr Delemoice

DATE : Dec 19, 1952

ITEM(S) TRANSMITTED

REMARKS OR REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE

AND TITLE OF PREPARING OFFICER

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